Disabled Live On Own In New Apartments

BY ROSEMARY MUNSEN Enquirer Reporter

"Actually," said Peggy Geier, "I don't think we knew until we got into this how great the need was."

She is speaking of Find-A-Way. an apartment building designed solely for the disabled.

While it is designed, it won't be built until the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) approves plans. Then construction can begin in the fall on a 40-unit building at 3027 Minot Ave., Oakley.

A grant from HUD started the ball rolling. Property was located at the old Oakley Elementary School, which has now been demolished, said Mrs. Geier, who is the wife of Eugene L. Geier.

"It is marvelous because all the people who live there, even those in wheelchairs, will be able to go to town to shop, and have transportation to jobs.

"It will ful a big need, and we really have proven that these people can live happily semi-independently and get to their jobs. Some of the stories are almost miraculous," stid Mrs. Geier.

Her experience comes from a lifetime of work with cerebral palsy patients-a founder of Stepping Stones Center for the Handicapped, as organizer and chairman of LADD (Living Arrangements for the Developmentally Disablet), and as board member of Children's Hospital and Family Service.

"LADD is the support organization for Find-A-Way," said Polly Strauss, LADD president and also president of Find A-Way. Both organizations share the same board of trustees and are co-operating in the apartment project.

HUD OFFICIALS tre evaluating designs which were drawn when HUD made its original \$1.68 million grant for the project. Money has b en set aside to requirements used when a met. Mrs. Str of Jo R. St

Around Town



PEGGY GEIER and Polly Strauss work to make living easier for the disabled.

working together for several years to provide recreation and living aids for the handicapped. LADD has a program to help disabled young men and women become independant at home, at work and play. Some 80 have graduated from the LADD program, but many needed someplace where they could live semi-independent-

LADD trustees were challenged to investigate housing. Many apartment units designed for the elderly are reluctant to accept developmently disabled tenants, the women said.

paramount and clients r o o tion, s ps LADD ad find s ap near transporta-

well, the women said, but housing is critical.

THE NEW units will not be a nursing facility. They will be for people at least 18 years old who are graduates of the LADD training programs, but not exclusively so. Find-A-Way will take other clients, Mrs. Geier said.

Her interest started when she was a member young girl on the Cerebral Palsy board in 1960, she said. She became one of the founders of Stepping Stones. "I really was interested in finding housing and training the developmentally disabled," she sa

Semi-independent liv Strouss said, means livi m Air um assista ter will someon of more nore An to sure the freezer is filled, that tenants are okay, have been to the grocery and have taken their medicines.

Developmental disabilities. Mrs. Strauss said, "cover a multitude of things-cerebral palsy, epilepsy, mental retardation, almost any outcome of birth injury or also may be outcome of an acci-

The women estimate 40 units will be enough for the first offering. "But we have a lot of people in the community that we follow up. I don't think we knew until we got into this how great the need was.

"BEECHWOOD HOME takes some of our cerebral palsy people who are not independent," Mrs. Geier said. "Already 36 people who have been graduated from LADD will be living with us in the new semi-independent Find-A-Way, but more people are coming into our LADD programs all the time," she said, with an eye to the future.

LADD admissions committee will interview all prospective clients who many come, primarily, from Cincinnati and other areas of Ohio, for admission to Find-A-

Way.
"We are now just awaiting. When HUD gives us approval, we will work through any problems that arise, and then we will begin construction," Mrs. Strauss said.

She has been a part of care for the handicapped ever since she came to live in Cincinnati. She was Red Cross motor chairman in the 1950s, then on the board of Community Chest and United Cerebral Palsy board chairman.

"Present developments are pretty exciting-just as they were when we started LADD," Mrs. Strauss said.

Empowering adults with disabilities since 1975 2019 Annual Report



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Dear Friends

For 45 years, LADD has upheld its promise to adults with developmental disabilities that they can live independent, meaningful lives, making our communities stronger and our world better. From Brenda moving into her own apartment to Don securing his dream job, every day at LADD we see people living with confidence, empowered to achieve more.

In 2019, we asked you to help us keep our promise alive for years to come by supporting pioneering new programs. You answered that call with conviction. Because of your support, and guided by our 2021 Strategic Plan, LADD is utilizing smart technology to lower costs and increase independence, placing health and wellness as a top priority, and providing for people as they age and their needs become more complex.

With your support, a promise made 45 years ago has become a lifelong commitment to thousands of adults with developmental disabilities. We are humbled to have you as part of our community as we build a better, more inclusive world.

Sincerely,

Susan Brownknight

CEO. LADD

brenda & marty

Served by LADD for 38 years

"I started getting services from LADD because I wanted to live on my own. I stayed because of the people."



tim

Served by LADD for 14 years

"It was always a dream of mine to live all on my own someday and it came true. I'm so independent now, it feels so great."





don

Served by LADD for 14 years

"You can't always live with your mom, you have to move out. I was scared, but I'm glad I did it. People are nice, they treat me right. I got a job and I'm proud of it."



sandyServed by LADD for 37 years

"Prior to living at LADD I lived in an institution. LADD staff got me out. They taught me to live on my own. Now I have my own apartment."



This information was derived from the 2019 consolidated financial statements. The complete consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2019, audited by Barnes Denning & Co., Ltd., are available upon request.

PROGRAMS By the Numbers:

VICTORY PARKWAY



SOAR

HLADD



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS FIND-A-WAY & GEIER



SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT

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TOTAL SERVED

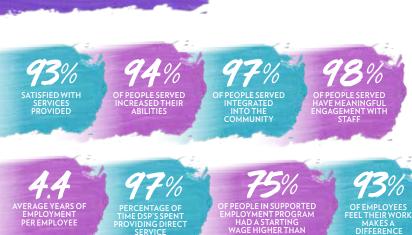
TOTAL STAFF & CONTRACTORS

PEOPLE SERVED



SERVICES

Survey of People Served, Families and Stakeholders:



"It's a good balance of engagement with my family member while respect for his privacy and self direction."

"They help you out a lot. They got a good team here."



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FUNDING UPDATE

Through the incredible support of the Greater Cincinnati community, LADD has raised over \$3.1 million toward the \$3.6 million project goal and is making our vision for a new model of integrated community living a reality. Three homes in Blue Ash have been completed, where individuals supported by LADD are now living independent lives fully integrated in their neighborhoods. Our second cluster of homes will be located in Anderson Township. The Heidt Smart Living Home — part of our Smart Living Pilot within the Forever, Home campaign — will open September 2020 and is the next step in creating a more sustainable service model that will use technology to increase opportunity and independence for people with developmental disabilities. Our Smart Living Pilot also includes remote support and wearable technology, both of which completed successful pilots and are being scaled throughout the agency in 2020. We are so grateful for your support and investment in this project. It is because of you that LADD is able to deliver impact, transform lives and empower those we support.

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^{*}Indicates donors who gave in 2019









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2019 AWARD RECIPIENTS



Spirit of Independence Award: LYNNE TOPITS

Recognizes a person receiving services from LADD who has demonstrated outstanding achievement in realizing their independence.



So Others May Fly Award: ANNIE CALLAN

Recognizes a person receiving services from LADD who has demonstrated outstanding service and commitment to a cause or organization other than LADD that benefits the community.



Above and Beyond Award: PHYLLIS THOMAS

Recognizes a LADD staff person that has performed exceptionally and tirelessly to further LADD's mission in the past year.



Employer Excellence Award: 3CDC – STEPHEN LEEPER & DEANA TAYLOR

Recognizes an individual or business that has been a leader in providing employment opportunities to the people LADD serves.



Volunteer of the Year: PATRICK GERARD

Recognizes an individual who volunteers at LADD and demonstrates a strong commitment to LADD's mission through their service.



Legacy Award: JACK GEIGER

Recognizes an organization or person that has inspired lasting change to further inclusion of people with disabilities in our community.



OVER-THE-RHINE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS:

85 films screened

1,200 students participated

193 volunteers

Hosted Screen Actors **Guild Open Casting Call** for Actors with Disabilities

92% of attendees said their perception of disability, faith, identity, diversity and freedom changed after attending

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This listing does not include Margaret B. Geier listed on page 4 or Forever Home Donors listed on page 5.

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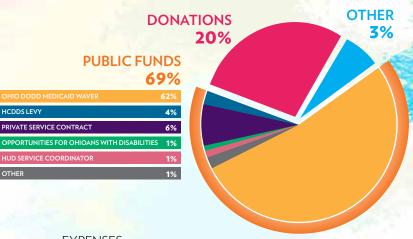
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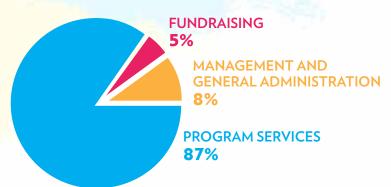
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\$9.8 MILLION



FUNDRAISING HIGHLIGHTS			CONTRIBUTORS
	CAR RAFFLE	\$187,400	1086
	CAPITAL CAMPAIGN	\$936,106	27
	OPERATING SUPPORT	\$350,574	538
	FILM FESTIVAL	\$765,580	1049
	RUN, WALK, AND ROLL	\$36,907	131

